



# GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

2026-2027 PROGRAMS



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## Dear Families and Students,

As we continue our mission into our fourth decade, GATE remains committed to providing exceptional, quality, accelerated, and dynamic programs for gifted students in the state of Michigan and across the world.

The 2026 GATE summer programs will feature a unique set of courses to challenge gifted students in STEAM areas and beyond. Students attend classes on the beautiful Michigan State University campus in June and July in programs that allow them access to our world-class research laboratories, highly acclaimed faculty, and state-of-the-art classrooms while learning from MSU faculty, staff, and experts in their field who developed specialized and individualized curriculum. These exciting summer offerings include hands-on courses on topics such as foundations of artificial intelligence, prelaw, premed education, and behavioral ecology.

GATE offers intensive residential or commuter experiences for students ages 13 and up, where they can dive deep into areas like Math, Science, and Technology (MST), Math, Science, Technology, and Leadership (MSTL), and Intensive Studies for Gifted and Talented (IS4GT). This is a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with faculty, explore real-world applications, and build lifelong friendships with like-minded peers.

Beyond the summer months, we will continue to provide accelerated academic year options, including the Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program (CHAMP: Mathematics) and Michigan's Accelerated NihonGo for Americans (M.A.N.G.A.: Japanese) program.

**New Academic Year Program!** In addition, our ISHALL English program has undergone several enhancements aimed at ensuring alumni leave us prepared to pursue advanced course offerings, such as dual enrollment.

Our new Accelerated Study in Composition, English, and Narrative Discourse (ASCEND: English) program includes:

1. Course enrichments that will directly prepare students for the AP College Board exams in Advanced Placement English Literature and English Language and Composition.
2. Readings that will align with highly adopted American high school selections and the age/grade of the students enrolled in the course.
3. Integrated portfolio systems to teach writing as a key skill and encourage students to take risks with global revisions and care with local edits. Students will be given scaffolded deadlines to make revisions while balancing the creation of subsequent assignment(s).

These specialized academic programs allow gifted students to participate in live, interactive courses that connect them with peers from across the world to expand their horizons. Students have an opportunity to master advanced math, English, and foreign language concepts and earn high school credit. Please check and see if your district allows for 21f funding opportunities to assist with GATE tuition for our online course options.

Please note that applications are due by **May 8, 2026**, or until all spaces are filled. Thank you for allowing us to provide extraordinary programming for gifted students for over 40 years. We hope to continue to evolve and develop with the unique needs of our gifted children now and in the future and to continue to provide above-grade-level and accelerated programming for decades to come.

## GATE Summer and Academic Year Programs Virtual Information Meeting

February 1, 2026 | 1-2:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. at [gifted.msu.edu/GATEinfo2026](http://gifted.msu.edu/GATEinfo2026)

## GATE Gives Back

Donating to GATE Gives Back allows us to award need-based scholarships to students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend GATE programs.

Scholarship awards are available for testing fees, summer tuition, and academic year tuition on a first come, first served basis to qualifying U.S. citizens.

For more information and how to donate, please visit [givingto.msu.edu/crowdpower/gate](http://givingto.msu.edu/crowdpower/gate).

## About Gifted and Talented Education at Michigan State University

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) is a division of University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University. GATE is dedicated to promoting differentiated educational programs for students in elementary through high school. The mission of the Gifted and Talented Education office is to provide educational experiences that allow gifted students to develop intellectually, cultivate social relationships, and expand their understanding of the world.

### About Academic Year Programs

Space is limited in academic year programs, and the application process is competitive. Programs may fill up before the application deadline.

Our academic year programs challenge gifted middle and high school students in math, literature, and foreign language. These programs are designed to replace high school curricula, allowing students to complete 4 years of Michigan High School Content Expectations (HSCE) and Common Core National Standards in just 2 years of study. (Exception: M.A.N.G.A. is a 3-year course.) Courses are taught by MSU instructors. Students are expected to stay with the program for the full program cycle.

After completion, most students (excluding CHAMP) are prepared to take advanced placement (AP) courses at their high school or take **dual enrollment through MSU** or another institution.

Students should receive high school credit for their GATE academic year program. Please contact your student's school to confirm how they grant credit for GATE academic year programs. For more information, please view our **Responsibilities page** prior to applying.

Academic year programs include:

#### **Accelerated Study in Composition, English, and Narrative Discourse (ASCEND: English (formerly ISHALL))**

Applications are open to students currently in Grades 6–10. ASCEND is offered online for fall 2026. The ASCEND program begins with Grade 9 English curriculum.

#### **Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program (CHAMP: Mathematics)**

Applications are open to students currently in Grades 6–9. CHAMP is offered in East Lansing and online. The CHAMP program begins with Algebra 1.

#### **Michigan's Accelerated NihonGo for Americans (M.A.N.G.A.: Japanese)**

Applications are open to students currently in Grades 6–9. M.A.N.G.A. is a hybrid class with live, synchronous online curriculum. M.A.N.G.A. begins with Year 1 Japanese curriculum. PLEASE NOTE: This is a 3-year program.

### About Summer Programs

Summer programs have rolling admissions and fill up quickly! Programs may fill before the application deadline. Apply early!

GATE summer programs offer students the chance to experience advanced coursework and the college campus environment alongside their high-achieving peers. Programs include a residential option (when permitted) for Grades 7 and above (age 13 and above), as well as a commuter option.

Summer programs include:

#### **Gifted University for Precocious and Passionate Youth (GUPPY)**

GUPPY offers a variety of exploratory educational presentations and hands-on experiences to students in Grades 4–6 in MSU's laboratories and classrooms. There are several advanced topic tracks for students to choose from, each with its own combination of classes. Classes may include fine arts, career exploration, STEAM-based curriculum, and additional skill-based courses meant to introduce young students to a variety of experiences.

#### **Intensive Studies for Gifted and Talented (IS4GT)**

IS4GT is a one-week advanced residential or commuter program in a specific concentrated curriculum for students in Grades 7–11. Previous IS4GT tracks have included Pre-Med ED, writing, and computer programming. Students spend the week with experts in the discipline, rigorously exploring the course topic.

#### **Math, Science, and Technology (MST@MSU)**

MST@MSU is a one-week residential or commuter program for students in Grades 7–8. Students can choose from several advanced topic tracks. Each track has three classes, featuring a combination of math, science, and technology instruction. MST is offered in a wide range of subjects, which have previously included computer science, astrophysics, kinesiology, engineering, and more.

#### **Math, Science, Technology, and Leadership (MSTL)**

MSTL is a one-week residential or commuter program for students in Grades 9–10. This program has previously included topics such as molecular biology, advanced mathematics, and physics. Tracks include courses in either math, science, or technology as well as a leadership workshop intended to prepare students to navigate their college journey.

For more information, including extended course descriptions, payment options, and testing information, please visit [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu).

## Getting Started

GUPPY applicants require:

- Standardized, above-grade-level testing (see Testing Minimum charts on page 6)
- **Nonrefundable application fee of \$75 before March 1 or \$95 after March 1**
- Teacher recommendation

All other programs require:

- Standardized, above-grade-level testing (see Testing Minimum charts on page 6)
- Teacher recommendation
- Your most recent grade report
- Diagnostic assessment (ASCEND and CHAMP—included in the application)
- **Nonrefundable application fee of \$75 before March 1 or \$95 after March 1**

Students who are not accepted into a program must reapply and pay an additional application fee the next time they apply to a GATE program. Students may not defer their acceptance.

## Application Process

Visit [gateway.gifted.msu.edu](http://gateway.gifted.msu.edu). There you will complete (or update if you're a returning applicant) a student profile. Once that's done, you can begin your application!

NOTE: Please visit [gifted.msu.edu/about/faqs](http://gifted.msu.edu/about/faqs) for application deadlines.

1. Complete your testing early! Testing information can be found at [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu). Each program has an Eligibility page with minimum accepted tests and scores for applying. If you have an above-grade-level test that is not listed, please email [gifted@msu.edu](mailto:gifted@msu.edu) to see if we will consider it.
2. Upload your testing and a recent grade report to your application. Clear photographs or scanned images of official test scores and report cards are accepted.
  - a. Screenshots of grades from resources such as Power School are not accepted. Grade reports must be a scanned copy of the most recent report card issued by the school.
3. You will be asked for your teacher's email address within your application. Once submitted, your teacher will receive a link to complete the recommendation form. External letters or recommendations are not accepted. Please be sure to submit your application to trigger the recommendation to be sent.

4. **Pay your nonrefundable application fee at [gifted.msu.edu/payment](http://gifted.msu.edu/payment).**
5. If you're applying for a need-based scholarship, you will do so in the application. You must upload the previous year's **signed** tax return to be considered for aid. Because scholarship funding is limited, families are eligible for just one award over their lifetime.

Completed summer applications are reviewed on a rolling basis beginning in February until programs are filled.

Complete academic year applications are reviewed after the first regular deadline in early May. If programs still have availability after this date, complete and submitted applications will be reviewed until the extended deadline. Once your application has been completed and reviewed, you will receive a decision letter and any other materials via email.

## Testing Requirements

All programs require **above-grade-level** testing such as SAT, ACT, CogAT, or NNAT. For more information, visit [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu).

The charts on page 6 show minimum test scores required to apply for GATE programs for Grades 4 and up.

Only one qualifying score per test is required to meet minimum application requirements. For example, a CHAMP applicant needs an ACT score of at least 20 in math or a 21 composite to apply.

- Testing alone does not guarantee your student's acceptance.
- A diagnostic assessment is required for ASCEND and CHAMP applications.
- A full IQ score report administered by a licensed medical professional is acceptable for all programs in place of the tests listed above. For IQ testing information, visit [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu).
- Score requirements are a minimum benchmark to apply for academic year programs.
- The application review process is holistic and will take into consideration all aspects of your application.

**Test Scores Accepted for the GUPPY Program** (students currently in Grades 4–6)

Program	PSAT 8/9 Math	PSAT8/9 Reading	NNAT	IOWA	NWEA	MSTEP	CogAT
GUPPY 4	410	410	90th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile	Level 4	90th percentile
GUPPY 5-6	410	410	90th percentile	90th percentile	95th percentile	Level 4	90th percentile

**Note:** A full IQ score report administered by a licensed medical professional is acceptable for all programs in place of the tests listed above. For IQ testing information, visit [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu).

If your scores come close to meeting the stated minimums, we encourage you to apply.

**Minimum Test Scores Required for GATE Academic Year Programs** (current sixth graders and up)

Program	ACT Math	ACT English	ACT Reading	ACT Composite	SAT Math	SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	SAT Total	CogAT**
ASCEND	–	20	20	–	–	500	–	90th percentile (Verbal or Non-Verbal)
CHAMP	20	++	++	21	530	++	1000	90th percentile (Quantitative)
M.A.N.G.A.	–	19	19X	–	–	480	1000	90th percentile (Composite)

\*\* CogAT scores must be in the 90th percentile in the indicated subtest. Retesting required after 3 years.

++No minimum score required, but student must exhibit proficiency for reading and writing comprehension.

\*\*\* GATE will accept ACT and SAT subject test scores.

**Minimum Test Scores Required for GATE Summer Programs** (current seventh graders and up)

Program	Grades	ACT Math	ACT English	ACT Reading	ACT Composite	SAT Math	SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	SAT Total	CogAT**
MST@ MSU	7-8	18	18	18	18	480	480	–	90th percentile
MSTL	9-10	19	19	19	19	500	500	1000	90th percentile
IS4GT	Varies 6-11	18	18	18	18	480	480	–	90th percentile

\*\* Retesting required after 3 years.

## CogAT

Cognitive Abilities Test (Administered by MSU GATE)

To REGISTER and for DATES\*\* go to [gifted.msu.edu/testing/cogat-testing](http://gifted.msu.edu/testing/cogat-testing)

Cost: \$89/person before March 1. \$125/person after March 1.

\*\*More dates will be added as needed.

## Academic Year Programs

Our academic year programs challenge gifted middle and high school students in math, literature, and foreign language. Space is limited in academic year programs, and the application process is competitive. Programs may fill up before the application deadlines. Apply early!

### Academic Year Application Guidelines

If you are currently in the following grades during application time you can apply for the following academic year programs:

Grades 6–9      **CHAMP** or **M.A.N.G.A.**

Grades 6–10      **ASCEND**

Note: Students begin these programs in the fall of their seventh, eighth, ninth, or 10th grade year. For example, to begin the program in the fall of seventh grade, students must apply in the spring of their sixth-grade year. Although students may be younger than the grades stated, because of the nature of the acceleration and the high school level content, no exceptions for younger students will be granted.

For more information on responsibilities, academic integrity, lessons and class structure, and student evaluations, visit [gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs).

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Application Deadline:** May 8, 2026

**Extended Deadline:** June 15, 2026

**Information Meeting:** February 1, 2026 | 1–2:30 p.m.

Class days and times are available on the GATE website: [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu). Please refer to the GATE website for the most up-to-date class information.

## Academic Year Program Details

### What to Expect From Your GATE Program

GATE programs are designed to provide educational experiences that allow gifted students to develop intellectually, cultivate social relationships, and expand their understanding of the world.

### Attendance, Participation, and Academic Probation

**Course attendance is mandatory.** Students are allowed two absences per semester (two for fall, two for spring) and must make up any missed classwork by the next class session. Students who miss more than two class sessions will not receive a passing grade for the course and will be removed upon the third absence. Year 1 students are also required to attend at least three study labs per semester in the first year.

For the most up-to-date policy details, please visit [gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/responsibilities-of-participants](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/responsibilities-of-participants).

### Instructional Plan

Students attend one to two classes per week for a total of 2.5 hours. The schedule depends on the delivery and location of each course section.

Traditional high school curriculum is taught at an accelerated pace, requiring the student to be motivated and self-guided outside of the classroom to complete substantial homework and be a mature, independent learner.

There are regularly scheduled academic year program labs outside of school hours intended to strengthen students' understanding of program materials and concepts and allow them to seek additional help as needed from program tutors. Study labs are highly recommended but optional unless the instructor has required them for your student. This requirement will be communicated to families in advance.

Students will be given an MSU account for the online course website to access academic year program coursework/homework, which should be checked daily. Parents must allow students to communicate directly with the academic year program instructor.

Parent-teacher conferences are offered mid-semester to give parents an opportunity to communicate in person with the instructor about their student's progress. Progress reports are made available to each student's family midway through the fall and spring semesters. Grade reports are distributed to families and the student's school of record at the end of each semester.

## Costs and Payment

These fees apply to ASCEND/ISHALL (all locations); CHAMP (all locations), M.A.N.G.A.

### Application fees

A nonrefundable application fee is required for each program.

### Tuition

Tuition is \$2,349 per year:

- \$1174.50 is due within 7 days of program billing to confirm attendance.
- \$1174.50 is due within 14 days of program billing. Please refer to acceptance letter for due dates.

Failure to pay tuition by the due dates will result in immediate withdrawal from the program. No refunds will be given.

Note: Tuition payments are nonrefundable. Students accepted within 14 days of the program start will be subject to an abbreviated payment deadline.

### Need-Based Scholarships

Need-based scholarships may be available to qualifying students with a financial need. Fill out the scholarship page of the application when you apply. Parents should also contact their student's school to find out if any financial support is provided by the school. Scholarship recipients qualify to have any textbooks and field trips covered by the GATE office.

Because scholarship funding is limited, families are granted one award over their lifetime. Scholarship opportunities are limited to U.S. citizens whose permanent residence is in Michigan.

### School Tuition and Credit Granting Process

Many school districts in and around GATE program areas contribute all or part of a student's tuition. Upon acceptance, you will receive a form to complete, which includes school billing information. You should obtain the required information for that form directly from your student's school. This form must be completed by the date indicated. Families are responsible for all tuition and fees by the due dates listed in their acceptance materials. Tuition due dates are indicated in the student's decision letter. If payment is not received by posted due dates, then the student will be withdrawn from the program. All paid tuition or fees are nonrefundable.

Schools are invoiced **once** a year beginning in October. If a student's school contributes tuition costs or fees, parents will be refunded that amount **after** the school payment is received.

GATE MSU academic programs are conducted as an opportunity for students to gain high school credit, but they are not considered an honors-level course. ASCEND and CHAMP classes are designed to align with Michigan HSCE requirements as well as Common Core. Parents are responsible for communicating with their child's school before applying to any academic program to address the question of issuing credit and placement of their student in their class curriculum and/or schedule. GATE does not guarantee any credit acceptance with any school or district. Please see the [Responsibilities page](#) for more information.

21f: Certain GATE academic year courses may be eligible for 21f status. Please contact your school representative or [visit our 21f page](#) for more information.

**NOTE:** If your student leaves the program for any reason, the student is responsible for reimbursing the school for the cost of the tuition paid on the student's behalf.

### How to pay

Payments can be made online at [gifted.msu.edu/payment](http://gifted.msu.edu/payment).

### Other Costs

Parents are responsible for providing transportation, as well as required readings, textbooks, classroom supplies, and a TI-84+ calculator (for CHAMP students). Some programs may organize optional field trips with attendance costs to be paid by the family. For any virtual programs, students need a computer or laptop that is less than 5 years old and access to the Internet with a recommended bandwidth of 300 kbps. If you have financial issues, see our policies at [gifted.msu.edu/paying/need-based-scholarships](http://gifted.msu.edu/paying/need-based-scholarships).

### Cancellation Policy

All classes are subject to a minimum enrollment and may be canceled at the discretion of the GATE office. Your application fee and any paid tuition will be refunded.

### Refunds

No fees or tuition will be refunded unless the GATE office cancels the program.

### Withdrawals

All requests for withdrawals must be submitted in writing to the GATE office via email at [gifted@msu.edu](mailto:gifted@msu.edu). No fees or tuition will be refunded. You are required to acknowledge this policy prior to applying.



## Cooperative Highly Accelerated Mathematics Program (CHAMP)

### MATHEMATICS

#### Fall 2026 – Spring 2028

CHAMP, in partnership with the Department of Mathematics and University Outreach and Engagement at MSU, provides classroom instruction for qualified, mathematically gifted students applying in Grades 6–9.

Students attend one class per week for a total of 2.5 hours. The schedule depends on the delivery and location of each course section. Students are expected to attend regularly scheduled academic year program labs outside of class.

CHAMP is designed so that participating students will complete in 2 years the math content assigned in Michigan High School Content Expectations (HSCE) for all 4 years of high school and meet the Common Core National Standards. In their first year of CHAMP, students study Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. In the second year, CHAMP students study geometry and a standard pre-calculus course (trigonometry, analytic geometry, college algebra, and a brief introduction to calculus concepts).

Students must begin CHAMP with the study of Algebra 1. Bypassing one or more CHAMP courses is not permitted. Most students completing CHAMP will be prepared to enroll in an honors high school calculus course, an advanced placement (AP) high school calculus course, or a college calculus course.

#### CHAMP Schedule

Schedule	Course
Semester 1 (Fall, Year 1)	Algebra 1
Semester 2 (Spring, Year 1)	Algebra 2
Semester 3 (Fall, Year 2)	Geometry
Semester 4 (Spring, Year 2)	Pre-Calculus

\*\*See the Academic Year Program details at the beginning of this section (pg. 7).

For more information, visit: [gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/champ](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/champ)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Application Deadline:** May 8, 2026

**Extended Deadline:** June 15, 2026

**Information Meeting:** February 1, 2026 | 1–2:30 p.m.

Class days and times are available on the GATE website: [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu). Please refer to the GATE website for the most up-to-date class information.



## Accelerated Study in Composition, English, and Narrative Discourse

(ASCEND) | ENGLISH (FORMERLY ISHALL)

#### Fall 2026 – Spring 2028

ASCEND, in partnership with the Department of English, the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, and University Outreach and Engagement at MSU, provides classroom instruction for qualified, gifted language arts students applying in Grades 6–10.

The expanded curriculum now includes preparation for the AP English Literature and AP English Language and Composition exams as well as other enhancements detailed below.

Students attend one class per week for a total of 2.5 hours. The schedule depends on the delivery and location of each course section. Students are expected to attend regularly scheduled academic year program labs outside of class.

Because students are studying high school literature content, ASCEND curriculum may contain mature content that is not appropriate for all students. Parents may contact the GATE office to ask to review a past curriculum to determine if their student is ready for the ASCEND curriculum.

ASCEND is designed so that participating students will complete in 2 years the English content assigned in Michigan High School Content Expectations (HSCE) for all 4 years of high school as well as meet the Common Core National Standards. Students must begin ASCEND with the Grade 9 English curriculum. Bypassing one or more courses is not permitted.

#### ASCEND includes:

- Course enrichments that will directly prepare students for the AP College Board exams in Advanced Placement English Literature and English Language and Composition (Optional to test. Families are responsible for any AP test registrations, costs, and logistics).
- Readings will align with highly adopted American high school selections and the age/grade of the students enrolled in the course
- ASCEND features portfolio systems to teach writing as a key skill and encourage students to take risks with global revisions and care with local edits. Students will be given scaffolded deadlines to make revisions while balancing the creation of subsequent assignment(s).

#### ASCEND Schedule

Schedule	Course
Semester 1 (Fall, Year 1)	Grade 9 English curriculum
Semester 2 (Spring, Year 1)	Grade 10 English curriculum
Semester 3 (Fall, Year 2)	Grade 11 English curriculum
Semester 4 (Spring, Year 2)	Grade 12 English curriculum

\*\*See the Academic Year Program details at the beginning of this section (pg. 7).

For more information, visit: [gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/ascend](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/ascend)



## Michigan's Accelerated NihonGo for Americans (M.A.N.G.A.)

JAPANESE

### Fall 2026 – Spring 2029

M.A.N.G.A., in partnership with the Office of University Outreach and Engagement at MSU, provides classroom instruction for qualified, gifted students applying in Grades 6–9.

The GATE Japanese Program offers a technology-enhanced format. Students will be required to attend live, synchronous, virtual instruction via Zoom. Throughout the year, students will be able to seek additional assistance via regularly scheduled virtual labs.

M.A.N.G.A. is designed so that participating students can complete in 3 years the Japanese language content assigned in Michigan High School Content Expectations (HSCE) for all 4 years of high school. Every semester of the GATE Japanese program corresponds to 1 year of high school Japanese.

Students must begin M.A.N.G.A. with the Grade 9 Japanese curriculum. Bypassing one or more courses is not permitted. Students completing M.A.N.G.A. will be prepared to take the Japanese Language and Culture Advanced Placement (AP) exam, the JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test), or a college Japanese course. Students must register for the AP exam via their home school. GATE does not facilitate any external test enrollment.

#### M.A.N.G.A.\*\* Schedule

Schedule	Course
Semester 1 (Fall, Year 1)	Japanese 1
Semester 2 (Spring, Year 1)	Japanese 2
Semester 3 (Fall, Year 2)	Japanese 3
Semester 4 (Spring, Year 2)	Japanese 4
Semester 5 (Fall, Year 3)	AP Japanese
Semester 6 (Spring, Year 3)	AP Japanese

\*\*See the Academic Year Program details at the beginning of this section (pg. 7).

For more information, visit: [gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/m-a-n-g-a-japanese](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs/m-a-n-g-a-japanese)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Application Deadline:** May 8, 2026

**Extended Deadline:** June 15, 2026

**Information Meeting:** February 1, 2026 | 1–2:30 p.m.

Class days and times are available on the GATE website: [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu). Please refer to the GATE website for the most up-to-date class information.

## Summer Programs

GATE summer programs offer students the chance to experience advanced noncredit coursework and the college campus environment alongside their high-achieving peers. Summer program applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and classes fill quickly.

Apply early!

### Summer Programs Application Guideline

See [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu) for grade-level requirements.

If you are currently in the following grades during application time you can apply for the following academic year programs:

Grade 4	<b>GUPPY 4</b>
Grade 5	<b>GUPPY 5-6</b>
Grade 6	<b>GUPPY 5-6</b>
Grade 7-9/10	<b>MST@MSU</b> <b>IS4GT: Intensive Studies</b>
Grade 9-10/11	<b>MSTL@MSU</b> <b>IS4GT: Intensive Studies</b>

## Costs and Payment

These fees apply to GUPPY, IS4GT, MST, and MSTL

### Application Fee

All programs require a nonrefundable application fee.

Please note that this fee must be paid **before** any information is shared or reviewed on your application.

### Tuition

Tuition amounts and deadlines are detailed in students' acceptance letters. Standard payment structure: 50% due within 7 days of acceptance; remaining 50% due within 14 days of acceptance. Students accepted within 14 days of the program start will be subject to an abbreviated payment deadline.

### GUPPY

- Before March 1: \$385 half day program/\$740 full day program
- After March 1: \$420 half day program/\$810 full day program

### IS4GT, MSTL, and MST@MSU

- Commuter (includes lunch): Before March 1, \$1,045; after March 1, \$1,140
- Residential: Before March 1, \$2,100; after March 1, \$2,490

### Additional Fees

- A \$25 change fee will be assessed for any track changes after acceptance (where permitted).
- A \$25 late payment fee will be assessed for any payment posted after 11:59 p.m. EST on the payment due date.

### How to pay

Payments can be made online at [gifted.msu.edu/payment](http://gifted.msu.edu/payment).

### Cancellation Policy

All programs, or classes within a program, may be subject to a minimum enrollment and may be canceled at the discretion of the GATE office. Additionally, the residential portion of the programs may be canceled if there are not enough residential students enrolled. Any applicable fees and/or tuition will be refunded.

### Refunds and Drops

The application fee is nonrefundable.

All requests for withdrawals must be submitted in writing to the GATE office via email at [gifted@msu.edu](mailto:gifted@msu.edu). No fees or tuition will be refunded.

A student may only leave the program in case of emergency. In such a case, the student should take all personal belongings with them as they will be considered withdrawn from the program. No refunds will be given.

### Commuting and Lodging

Local families commute daily by dropping off and picking up their student each day from campus. For out-of-area families, a stay in East Lansing offers an opportunity to access gifted programming on the beautiful MSU campus. Families may stay in the area and connect with other gifted students and make contacts to stay in touch. GATE will provide accepted families with a list of local hotel accommodations, many of which will be available at a discounted rate.

For Summer Program FAQs, visit [gifted.msu.edu/about/faqs](http://gifted.msu.edu/about/faqs)

## GATE Summer and Academic Years Programs Virtual Information Meeting

February 1, 2026 | 1-2:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. at [gifted.msu.edu/GATEinfo2026](http://gifted.msu.edu/GATEinfo2026)



## Gifted University for Precocious and Passionate Youth (GUPPY)

GUPPY is a weeklong program offering students in Grades 4–6 a variety of accelerated exploratory educational presentations and hands-on experiences in MSU's laboratories and classrooms.

### Important Dates for GUPPY Program (tentative)

GUPPY programs are Monday–Friday full day and include lunch, apart from the week of June 22–26, which is AM only and has no meals.

- June 15–19
- June 22–26 – GUPPY is AM only this week.
- July 6–10
- July 13–17

**Application deadline: May 8, 2026**

For more information, visit [gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/guppy](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/guppy).

GUPPY is designed for young gifted and talented students to attend classes taught by MSU faculty and subject-matter experts at MSU. This GATE program offers young, gifted students a variety of accelerated exploratory educational presentations and hands-on experiences in MSU's laboratories and classrooms.

GUPPY tracks are intended to give young students an introduction to a variety of subjects to help them determine future areas of interest. As such, GUPPY tracks will offer a plethora of options, and tracks may not always consist of a dedicated subject area. Many class options are STEAM based, and other courses offer gifted students educational opportunities on a Big Ten campus not typically available at their home schools.

GUPPY applicants require a qualifying above-grade-level test, teacher recommendation, and the nonrefundable application fee to complete their application.

### GUPPY Track Options

Space is limited, and each track will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

For full descriptions and actual track offerings, see [gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/guppy](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/guppy).

Please see sample schedule below. Not all classes listed will be available; this is meant to be a sample of class variety and times. Check the website for track classes and descriptions.

### GUPPY Sample All-Day Schedule M-F

Track	Class 1 8:45-10:15 am	Class 2 10:30 am-12 pm	Lunch and Coordinated Activity Time	Class 3 1:45-3:15 pm	Class 4 3:30 – 5 pm
A	Nuclear Astrophysics	Ancient Mathematics		Conservation Biology	Minecraft



## Intensive Studies for Gifted and Talented (IS4GT)

A one-week advanced program in a specific concentrated curriculum, IS4GT is an option for gifted students in Grades 7–11.

Tracks are comprised of one area of focus and will feature hands-on experiences, lectures, and presentations from experts in that field of study. Students will have an opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge about and exposure to a concentrated topic.

IS4GT is meant for students who have a profound interest in the topic offered, or for students who are considering a career in that area and want to learn more. IS4GT is a great opportunity for students to access resources at MSU, experience college life, and simultaneously learn with other gifted students.

Previous IS4GT tracks have included Pre-Med, Pre-Law, Creative Writing, and Animation.

**Application deadline: May 8, 2026**

For more information, including course descriptions, visit: [gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/is4gt](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/is4gt).

Please see a sample course description below. Not all classes listed will be available; this is meant to be a sample of class variety and times. Check the website for available classes and descriptions.

### PRE-MED ED

Grades 7–10

This program is intended for students interested in health care. Students will:

- discover medical specialties through hands-on demonstrations and activities, such as intubation, physical therapy, and respiratory therapy;
- learn whole body anatomy, physiology, and integrated body systems to see how all the different systems in the body work together;
- explore the life of CPR and emergency-medical-response professionals;
- learn about pharmacology and how drugs interact with the body and living systems;
- learn about the different approaches of medicine: allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO); and
- explore subspecialties within the field of medicine.



## Math, Science, and Technology (MST@MSU)

MST@MSU is a one-week residential or commuter program for students in Grades 7–8. There are several advanced topic tracks from which students can choose. Each track has three classes featuring a combination of math, science, and technology instruction. MST is offered in a wide range of subjects, which have previously included computer science, astrophysics, kinesiology, engineering, and more. To be eligible for the residential option, students must be at least 13 years old by the start date.

The program is held at the MSU campus and offers a variety of topics within mathematics, science, and technology, focusing on real-world applications in these areas. The goal is to match the intellectual abilities of talented students with rigorous and challenging coursework, which provides enrichment but does not duplicate or accelerate coursework that is part of the regular middle school curriculum.

MST participants choose a dedicated track that consists of three classes focused on a variety of STEM-based learning opportunities. The course curriculum features hands-on experiences, lectures, and presentations from experts in the field(s) of study.

**Application deadline: May 8, 2026**

For more information, including course descriptions, visit: [gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/mstatmsu](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/mstatmsu).

Please see sample schedule below. Not all classes listed will be available; this is meant to be a sample of class variety and times. Check the website for track classes and descriptions.

### MST Sample Schedule

Track	Class 1 9-11 am	Class 2 12:30-2:30 pm	Class 3 2:45-4:45 pm
1	Kinesiology	Nuclear Astrophysics	Computer Programming

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Application Deadline:** May 8, 2026

**Extended Deadline:** June 15, 2026

**Information Meeting:** February 1, 2026 | 1–2:30 p.m.

Class days and times are available on the GATE website: [gifted.msu.edu](http://gifted.msu.edu). Please refer to the GATE website for the most up-to-date class information.



## Math, Science, Technology, and Leadership (MSTL)

MSTL is a one-week residential or commuter program for students in Grades 9–10. This program has previously included advanced topics such as molecular biology, advanced mathematics, and physics. Tracks include courses in either math, science, or technology as well as a leadership workshop designed to help students navigate their college journey. To be eligible for the residential option, students must be at least 13 years old by the start date.

The MSTL program offers advanced curriculum designed to stimulate students to learn about new developments in mathematics, science, and technology, and to explore related career fields. MSTL is a chance for early high school students to experience on-campus resources, be exposed to MSU instructors, and work toward a better understanding of opportunities for their future educational endeavors.

**Application deadline: May 8, 2026**

For more information, including course descriptions, visit: [gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/mstl](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/mstl).

For more comprehensive class details, go to: [gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/mstl/mstl-classes](http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/summer-programs/mstl/mstl-classes).

Please see sample schedule below. Not all classes listed will be available; this is meant to be a sample of class variety and times. Check the website for track classes and descriptions.

### MSTL Sample Schedule

Track	Class 1 9-11 am	Class 2 12:30-2:30 pm	Class 3 2:45-4:45 pm
1	Molecular Biology	Physics	Leadership Course